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Memorandum

To: Healthcare Providers
Health Insurers and Health Plans

From: Robert W. Morrison, Vaccine Manager
Susan M. Lett, MD, MPH, Medical Director

Date: January 2007

Subject: Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine for VFC-Eligible Girls Now Available

On June 8, 2006, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration licensed a human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine (Gardasil[®], Merck), for immunization of females 9-26 years of age.

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Recommendations

On June 29, 2006, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted on recommendations for the use of HPV vaccine. These provisional recommendations of the ACIP are for routine vaccination of females 11-12 years of age with 3 doses of HPV vaccine. The series can be started as early as 9 years of age. In addition, catch-up vaccination is recommended for females 13-26 years of age.

For preliminary information about indications, contraindications and the schedule for HPV vaccine, please refer to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) document *Provisional Recommendations for the Use of Quadrivalent HPV Vaccine* (attached). The ACIP provisional recommendations can be found at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/ACIP website <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/ACIP/default.htm> and are not considered final until they are published in CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*. When the final recommendations are published they will also be accessible on the ACIP website.

HPV Vaccine Supplied by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) federal entitlement program has provided funding to make HPV vaccine available to all VFC-eligible girls 9-18 years of age as outlined below. Effective immediately, MDPH will supply HPV vaccine for this group only.

In order to qualify for this vaccine, a child less than 19 years of age must meet one of the following criteria:

- be enrolled in Medicaid;
- be without health insurance;
- be an American Indian or Alaska Native; or
- receive care at a federally qualified community health center.

The current procedural terminology (CPT) code for Gardasil® is 90649. Since providers will need to purchase HPV vaccine privately for the immunization of non-VFC-eligible females 9-18 years of age, and all females 19-26 years of age, this code should be used for reimbursement. Most vaccines can be ordered directly from the vaccine manufacturer or are available from pharmaceutical distributors. For inventory management purposes, providers will need to be able to distinguish between state-supplied vaccine and private purchase vaccine. Private purchase vaccine inventory and doses administered data should not be included on the MDPH vaccine order and usage forms. State-supplied vaccine can be ordered from your local board of health using the current vaccine order form. The order form can be downloaded from the following site: <http://www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/epii/imm/imm.htm#management>.

Please disseminate this memorandum to appropriate staff. If you have any questions regarding vaccine availability please contact the MDPH Vaccine Management Unit at 617-983-6828.